

12 September 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 12 September 1979

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The Director chaired the meeting.

Lehman reported continuing evidence of a gradual rise in Soviet activity in Afghanistan and that the Soviets face a dilemma of how much of a commitment they can risk. Relatedly, he said the current IIM (draft) is a well-balanced paper but provides no hard evidence for what the Soviets are most likely to do. Lehman requested an Alert Memorandum be issued, mainly to let people know of an important situation elsewhere in the world, not just Cuba. The Director agreed to an Alert Memorandum and asked if the reported 3600 Soviet troops in Kabul could be linked to airfield activity near the Afghanistan border; Clarke said at the moment such a link is uncertain.

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McMahon reported briefly on the following:

--A skyjacked flight from Frankfurt to Cologne; he said the only Americans aboard were an ICA officer and his wife.

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--Sadat personally intervened to cool down some paratroopers intent on shooting up a police station where the wife of a paratrooper had been held for two days.

--Reports of Chinese troops moving to South China close to the Vietnam border, using for cover reasons, heavy unemployment and general unrest in the south. In response to a query from the Director, Clarke said analysts are reevaluating all-source reports of Chinese troop movements in that area (e.g., no evidence of significant troop movements from Chinese garrisons).

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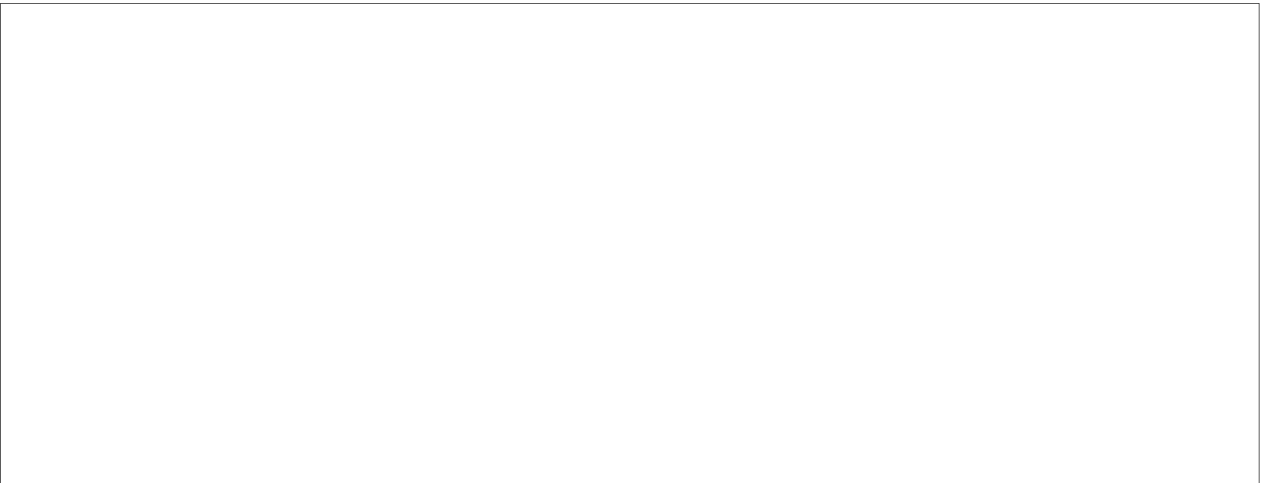
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Taylor outlined the 1981 budget hearing schedule for this fall noting, in contrast to the past, heavier emphasis will be given to discussions by examiners with Agency top-level officers. Taylor said he welcomes this change and will be forwarding suggestions beforehand to the Director and others. 25X1

Hetu reported on his attendance at two public affairs sessions at the White House re the Cuban situation. He said the sessions were useful and that Press Secretary Powell stressed three main points:

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- 1) the Cuban situation is not an intelligence failure;
 - 2) there is to be no interagency squabbling on the Cuban issue; and
 - 3) no agency is to engage in fights with the press on this topic.
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Hitz briefly reviewed the situation re the Director's appearance today before the SSCI on Cuba, the SSCI scoreboard, and the Director's SALT wrap-up with the SSCI on Friday. He noted we might get an indication at today's SSCI session as to whether or not the committee will move ahead with SALT on Friday. Noting heavy distraction caused by the Cuba situation, the Director asked Clarke to help him refocus and prepare for Friday's SALT hearing; specifically, he asked, because he will not be able to review seven inches of material by Friday, that itmes be prioritized. (Action: NFAC) 25X1

Hitz reported an apparent hang-up at the moment with the SSCI on whether historical reporting on SALT violations should be quarterly or semiannual. The Director asked that this be cleared up, if possible, by Friday and, if necessary, he would agree to quarterly reporting. (Action: OLC) 25X1

Hitz said Representative Aspin has asked that a CIA representative appear in a closed hearing on Friday re the Andrew Young incident. Others to attend include W. Cregar (FBI), D. Mark (State), and Vice Admiral Inman (NSA). Discussion followed on the problems posed by such a hearing and that little good can be gained; the Director pointed out that the President has already certified no intelligence involvement in this incident. McMahon warned that Aspin's propensity for post-hearing press releases is a real problem. The Director said, if pressed, McMahon would attend; however, he encouraged Hitz to explore alternatives with Aspin (e.g., a meeting in Aspin's office or Aspin's assurance of no press release following the hearing). (Action: OLC) []

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The Director said he would be talking to Lloyd Cutler regarding briefings on Cuba requested by a substantial number of Congressmen. He asked that Clarke, Hitz, [] and Hetu get with him this morning for a skull session toward this afternoon's SSCI hearing on Cuba. []

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